

LAAC: Weekly Leadership Update
June 29, 2018

NEW INFORMATION FROM LAST WEEK = YELLOW HIGHLIGHT

North Star Updates

Authorization & Oversight <i>North Star: Oversight of charter schools is efficient for both LAUSD and educators, centered on student learning, and promotes a collaborative relationship between charter schools and their authorizer.</i>	
Current Strategy	Updated Authorization & Oversight Policy: We had our clearest window to date to make this happen with Ref's resolution, which we successfully killed at June's board meeting. We decided we did not want to encourage the continuation of Applicable Policies Working Group, which has essentially died out. We will need to push for an alternative path forward in this area, and are focused on leadership changes as a logical next step since policy is good, but there is a gap between policy and practice.
	Path forward: • Testing the CSD with renewal criteria • Pushing for changing staffing at the CSD if they are not responsive • Updating renewal criteria so we can work backwards and have Authorizing and Oversight can reflect those improvements
	Oversight Feedback & Survey: We believe that the strongest argument to the new superintendent to encourage him to make changes on charter issues will be to demonstrate the gap between the existing policy and practice: the policies are good, but staff is ineffective and isn't following them. Glenn Gritzner shared that he thinks that is a strong argument for Austin. We are continuing to document the gap via the circulation of a new oversight and authorization survey and compiling school leader anecdotes, particularly now that most schools have completed oversight visits for the year.
	Updated Charter Renewal Criteria: - It's become clear that CSD still does not want to update renewal criteria, despite feedback given by charter leaders at the Listen & Learn session. However, the LAAC's meeting with Austin Beutner may have reopened the pathway for an administrative update to renewal criteria, and we are focused on facilitating next steps. - We are preparing for all members to submit renewal petitions with CCSA criteria if no or minimal changes are secured. We are also preparing for a public collective action campaign by having 1:1 conversations with all renewing members, including prioritized conversations with school leaders who are best positioned to help lead this action. - We are also continuing to monitor conversations around the Performance Framework. We understand Emilio, Cristina and Marcia will be asked to join the working group. Based on Jose's recent messaging, we are concerned that the Performance Framework is being used as an excuse not to tackle charter renewal criteria, and we are speaking to this with Board Members. Path Forward: • Facilitate follow-up from the meeting with Austin, including a second meeting with Hilda and/or appropriate district staff.

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	• Submit petitions with CCSA criteria if no or minimal changes are secured; Prepare for collective action campaign if needed. • Marcia, Emilio, Cristina join performance framework group.
What Happened Last Week	Updated Authorization & Oversight Policy: See below. Oversight Feedback & Survey: CCSA presented to the LAAC on preliminary survey results, shored up survey responses, and will prepare analysis to help inform our summer planning. We heard from Monica that we need more clarity on facts and specific violations to help board members and the Superintendent identify where the issues are if we want to make a case for leadership change. Updated Charter Renewal Criteria: Continued preparing for a potential collective action campaign: facilitated cohort call for all July submissions, conducted individual check-ins with schools to ensure petitions are finalized with CCSA's Academic Accountability Reports included, continued working with Jose and our legal team to iron out process for July submission dates, timeline extensions, etc. Almost all July submissions were able to successfully schedule intake for the week of July 9th. Hilda scheduled a call with Emilio regarding next steps on renewal criteria.
For Discussion: What's Happening Next Week	Updated Authorization & Oversight Policy: See below Oversight Feedback & Survey: N/A Updated Charter Renewal Criteria - We will continue to prepare for potential collective action, including working with Jason Mandell on drafting the collective letter and talking points for the public narrative/media. - We will continue to monitor conversations regarding the performance framework.
What's Happening with Working Group	N/A
Preliminary Thoughts for Next LAAC Meeting	We will factor recent developments into our summer planning with the LAAC and partners.

Facilities – Bond

North Star: State and local charter school bond dollars are allocated in a manner that is transparent and consistent with the long-term facilities needs of charter schools.

Current Strategy	Developing. Following confirmation that the District will not pursue a facilities bond in 2018, we are developing strategies and recommended next steps toward ensuring greater accountability and responsible spending of current bond dollars and, as the possibility of both a facilities bond and parcel tax in 2020 remains, continue to discuss and socialize with District leadership and the BOE equitable
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	charter inclusion in any future bond or parcel tax. Although developing, our current strategy remains rooted in our initial bond strategy; namely that: - The reason we wanted a bond to move was so that we could quickly move on other facilities policy like long-term agreements. Without a bond as leverage, we need to make sure the District doesn't back off on this priority. - Charters must be included in the 2020 bond and parcel tax, and we will need to be ready to have those conversations with the board and Austin. - The District needs to address its unfunded liabilities and a parcel tax is a reasonable way to do this, but it needs to be done thoughtfully and strategically. For now, we can pause on the 2018 bond and use the upcoming summer to develop early planning for a potential 2020 bond and/or parcel tax.
What Happened Last Week	- On Monday, we updated the LAAC about McKenna and Schmerelson's last-minute and surprise resolution titled <i>Fulfilling Our Commitment to Raise Revenue for Increased School Funding</i>, which calls upon the District to submit a parcel tax measure for the November 2018 ballot to generate revenue against the District's forecasted budget deficit. We shared that the introduction of a parcel tax resolution at this very late juncture, without months of planning, negotiations, and community engagement, and devising a parcel tax for the purpose of eliminating debt is highly unusual and appears to be, in part, a politically-motivated effort to malign the charter-friendly board members as unwilling to raise revenue for kids. Importantly, we shared that the resolution does not mention or otherwise equitably include charter schools in the revenue-sharing. It also does not explicitly exclude charters. - Throughout the week we continued to advocate to Board Members Garcia, Melvoin, Rodriguez, and Gonez the variety of practical and logical reasons why McKenna and Schmerelson's parcel tax resolution is ill-timed and must be voted down and defeated on July 10. We learned that despite lobbying from Superintendent Beutner, Board Member Vladovic is near certain to support the resolution. As was affirmed during Wednesday's meeting between Emilio, Cristina, Cassy, and Board Member Melvoin, he, along with Board Members Garcia and Gonez, remain opposed to the parcel tax resolution. Therefore, securing Board Member Rodriguez's opposition to the resolution will be critical to ensuring that it is voted down and defeated on July 10. Cassy is connecting with Ref on 7/1 to continue to lobby for his "no vote". Additionally, CCSA staff have activated GPSN, Ben Austin, Seth Litt, Katie Braude, and Glenn Gritzner to lobby against the parcel tax. Cassy confirmed directly that Kelly and Monica are

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	still opposed, and is connecting with Ref on Sunday and will provide an update. - Also, on Wednesday, at the GPSN “One City, All Kids” event with Superintendent Beutner, Cassy connected with Pedro Salcido and discussed with him briefly the variety of practical and logical reasons why McKenna and Schmerelson’s parcel tax resolution is ill-timed and must be voted down and defeated on July 10 and, importantly, discussed the importance of charter school inclusion and equity in any revenue-generating measure, whether bond or parcel tax, and whether now, in 2020, or later. Given Pedro’s proximity to Superintendent Beutner, we believe this was yet another avenue by which our advocacy and messaging reached the Superintendent. Cassy is working with Pedro to set up time for CCSA and the LAAC to meet and discuss our priorities. - Regional Advocacy continues to discuss with the Facilities and Legal teams a plan to pivot toward using the summer months for strategizing and planning toward increased access and greater accountability of remaining bond expenditures and funds under Measure Q and laying groundwork toward a potential bond measure and parcel tax in 2020. This remains something we will bring back to the LAAC for summer planning relative to our other priorities.
What’s Happening Next Week	- The board meeting agenda for the Tuesday, July 10, meeting would typically be released on Wednesday, but given that it is a holiday (Independence Day). It will be released on Thursday and we will monitor for updates on the parcel tax. Either would be Brown Act-compliant. - We are scheduling calls and/or meetings with board members and their staff for Thursday, July 5, and Friday, July 6 and throughout the week will continue to advocate to Board Members Garcia, Melvoin, Rodriguez, and Gonez the practical and logistical reasons why a 2018 tax does not make sense for the district or the public and will advocate for board members to vote down the resolution on July 10 or, at minimum, amend it to pursue 2020 initiatives. However, our advocacy efforts will focus on Board Member Rodriguez since we know that Board Members Garcia, Melvoin, and Gonez are firmly opposed to the resolution. Securing Board Member Rodriguez’s opposition is key to ensuring that the resolution is defeated or deadlocked on July 10, especially considering the possibility that Board Member Gonez may not be present (maternity leave). She most likely will be calling into the meeting remotely. - We are working to identify how many votes a parcel tax or resolution need to pass. - If it makes sense, we will facilitate scheduling of the follow-up meeting with Austin to discuss the LAAC’s facilities-related priorities, including bonds and/or parcel taxes since we have not yet scheduled that meeting,

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	depending on Emilio and Cristina's conversations around renewal criteria.
What's Happening with Working Group	Proposal: While we do not foresee a need for the FPWG to meet within the next two weeks, considering that bond advocacy and preparation constituted a substantial portion of recent work for FPWG/LAAC members, we should be among the first to let them know that the District will not pursue a 2018 facilities bond. We also need to work with the LAAC over the summer to identify next steps around a bond, and whether we shift our focus back to improving the Measure Q program, per Facilities' recommendation, and also must factor in a comprehensive strategy for both a parcel tax and bond.
Preliminary Thoughts for Next LAAC Meeting	Summer Planning: - Potentially discuss and develop early planning for a potential 2020 bond and/or parcel tax.

Facilities - Long Term Agreements

North Star: Los Angeles charter school families have access to long-term, stable, District facilities that are equipped to support the learning needs of all students.

Current Strategy	Long-Term Facilities Use Agreements: We leveraged the dismissal of our two facilities lawsuits to push for an accelerated conversation regarding long-term facilities use agreements, and have been pushing on the issue all year with LAAC members starting with DRL. We have shared our facilities proposal with Nick's office as a starting place. Currently, we are working most closely with Nick's office on next steps, and his office is also working with District staff to move the needle on facilities. As we continue to work with Nick to remove roadblocks (e.g., OGC) and consider politically viable mechanisms to implement long-term agreements, we continue to push for and counsel on long-term facilities use agreements, either through leases from Prop. 39 or an RFP process. We will continue to build public pressure and awareness around facilities by organizing charter leaders to speak at public meetings and work with the new Superintendent and Nick Melvoin to push District policy toward approving long-term agreements. Public Facilities Inventory & Database: We learned that the board has already contracted with a company who is doing a District-wide facilities inventory, and will also be making recommendations around facilities use. The BOE passed a transparency-related resolution that can serve as the foundation for this work and we know from pre-Superintendent conversations with Austin indicate that he wants to move very quickly on a public inventory and database. Will work with the new Superintendent and Nick Melvoin to push District policy and directives toward inventorying and publishing District real estate and facilities-related information. Prop 39 Oversight: Nick has indicated interest in adding charter representation to the space utilization committee to have a more direct lever to improve the process. We must push for this more explicitly, and also continue calling for improvements
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	to Prop. 39 publicly at board meetings and through media. Paradigm Shift in Facilities Allocation: Our strategy toward establishing a complete paradigm shift in the way in which District utilizes and allocates public school facilities will be a long-term strategy and is determinative upon building a persistent groundswell of support and achieving major facilities wins, such as public and transparent facilities inventories and successful long-term facilities use agreements. A shift will also depend on the development of a performance framework and results therefrom.
What Happened Last Week	Long-Term Facilities Use Agreements: - On Wednesday, GPSN hosted its "One City, All Kids" parent summit with Superintendent Beutner and Board Members Garcia, Melvoin wherein community and education reform organizations will discussed important issues affecting Los Angeles traditional and charter public schools, including the need for stable, sustainable places to learn (e.g., long-term facilities use agreements.) We prepared long-term facilities use agreement issue-framing statements and talking points that CCSA Families and UPAS charter parents and students used to describe facilities challenges to Superintendent Beutner and to seek commitment toward putting kids first (and not bureaucracy) when making sensible facilities policy reform, and made a hard ask of Superintendent Beutner to establish long-term facilities agreements. While he did not answer each question explicitly, he told Myrna that he thought all the proposals made sense. Now we must identify a path forward to work with him on our facilities work, which will come from summer planning and subsequent conversations. - On Wednesday, Emilio, Cristina, and Cassy, met with Board Member Melvoin as a follow-up to the facilities proposal meeting in April. Long-Term FUA: Nick has not yet met with internal district staff to discuss viable paths forward on long-term use agreements. Nick's Chief of Staff, Sarah Angel, will become heavily involved in pushing forward facilities policy and the moratorium on her communication and work with CCSA and her prior areas of work expires on July 7. A meeting with David Holmquist, Jose Cole-Gutierrez, and Sean Jernigan will happen soon after July 7. Nick Melvoin noted that there is a difference of opinion at the Board and leadership level about who and/or what division is responsible for road-blocking or obstructing progress on long-term agreements at the district-level. One objective of the meeting and follow-up work is to identify among Holmquist, Jose, and Sean where the bottleneck is occurring. Space Utilization Committee: Nick believes charter inclusion on existing space utilization committees is "low-hanging fruit." Now that the CCSA lawsuits have been dismissed, there should be no impediment to charter inclusion. We should ask to make this happen. BD4 Co-Location Retreat: The retreat was successful and Nick believes it is replicable in other board

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	districts. Perhaps GPSN can push in to help replicate. Prop 39 Alt and Shared Use Agreements: Nick needs facts and to know what schools and issues are outstanding on alt and shared use agreements. - The Facilities team completed a BD4 matrix identifying potential paths forward on long-term facilities use agreements (e.g., pilot-program, broad RFP, existing Prop 39 co-locations) and the potential # of schools, # of students, financial, political, etc., impact to inform further strategizing and planning. Facilities is continuing to work on extrapolating the same data for other board districts and is aiming to have complete by the end of next week. Public Facilities Inventory & Database: N/A Prop 39 Oversight: Nick Melvoin's office facilitated a Prop. 39 co-location retreat that could serve as a model for the district. So far feedback has been overwhelmingly positive from both District and charter principals, despite some hiccups which included Howard Blume attending and AALA (David Tokofsky) raising concerns with not being consulted. We should discuss opportunities to replicate. We also confirmed with Board Member Melvoin that charter inclusion in the Space Utilization Committees is logical and should be something we push for. Paradigm Shift: N/A
What's Happening Next Week	Long-Term Facilities Use Agreements: - We will work to schedule a follow-up meeting in mid to late-July with Board Member Melvoin to discuss our facilities priorities and, importantly, learn about Nick and Sarah's internal meeting with David Holmquist, Jose Cole-Gutierrez, and Sean Jernigan. - We will work with members to identify where facilities challenges have presented and what LAUSD staff and/or divisions have presented as the major obstacles toward collaboration. - Cassy will schedule a call and/or meeting with Board Member Melvoin to discuss the schools and issues are outstanding on alt and shared use agreements and plan for potential collective action. - Facilities will update the matrix it prepared identifying all of the potential paths forward on long-term facilities use agreements (e.g., pilot-program, broad RFP, existing Prop 39 co-locations) and the potential # of schools, # of students, financial, political, etc., impact to include not just BD4, but the remainder of LAUSD and will be used to inform further strategizing and planning and Cassy, Emilio and Cristina's meeting with Board Member Nick Melvoin and Sarah Angel. - We will be working to secure more information about the facilities inventory that Jed discussed with Austin to understand if and how we can influence the recommendations, but on a whole we are glad that recommendation has moved outside the District's hands. Public Facilities Inventory & Database: Same as above.

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	Prop 39 Oversight: Same as above.
	Paradigm Shift: Same as above.
What's Happening with Working Group	No recommended action until more information is gathered per next steps above.
Preliminary Thoughts for Next LAAC Meeting	Summer Planning: Potentially discuss long-term use agreement framework and status of discussions with Nick Melvoin .

Relationships <i>North Star: The Los Angeles charter community establishes and maintains a leading voice informing LAUSD policy decisions with the new school board in place so that students and parents are at the forefront of District decision making.</i>	
Current Strategy	Superintendent: Using school leader knowledge and relationships with the new Superintendent, we are mapping what we know about Austin Beutner and creating a theory of action, with the goal of moving forward in concert with him on: 1. Updating renewal criteria 2. Changes at CSD so policy is followed consistently 3. Long-term facilities agreements and process transparency Through Jed and Emilio and the LAAC we are working to establish working relationships with Austin, and we will continue to build out a strategy for developing deeper relationships between him and the larger LAAC. Other Relationships: We are continuing to facilitate small-group meetings with LAAC members and LAUSD Board Members. We are holding on additional goals until the 2018-19 school year, due to capacity and low attendance/interest from LAAC members.
What Happened Last Week	Superintendent: This week, Myrna Castrejon and Great Public Schools now convened a meeting between 250 parents, Superintendent Austin Beutner, Board President Monica Garcia, and Board Vice President Nick Melvoin. Parents directed comments to the Superintendent on five issues: the school performance framework, student equity index, facilities, President Garcia's recent "close the gap" resolution, and common enrollment. CCSA Families speakers asked the Superintendent to commit to improving co-locations and creating long term facilities agreements. Additionally, GPSN parent task force speakers urged Austin to remove roadblocks to a charter common enrollment system. Austin delivered a 10-minute speech following parent comments. He introduced Pedro Salcido and Hilda Maldonado as his deputies, and launched into a critique of LAUSD, calling the district, "a top down bureaucracy, where needs of Beaudry, which looks more like a county jail, come before needs of students." Austin

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	reiterated support for changes to create and empower excellent schools whether they be charter or traditional public, and he commented briefly on community feeder patterns including all school models. He additionally called for a 2000-hour increase in instructional hours for LAUSD students, putting them on par with students in other big cities.
	Other Relationships: N/A
What's Happening Next Week	Superintendent: We will continue to work with Hilda to move renewal criteria forward and will consider how we should factor the Superintendent into our summer planning.
	Other Relationships: We will work on scheduling the meeting with Monica and Nick re LAAC summer planning.
What's Happening with Working Group	N/A
Preliminary Thoughts for Next LAAC Meeting	Factoring current progress into our summer planning.

Additional Updates

1. LAAC Membership & Admin
 - Scheduling interviews for Arina and Johnathan
 - Making decisions re new LAAC membership
 - Attendance conversations
 - Proposed 18-19 meeting schedule
2. Common Enrollment
 - On Wednesday, GPSN parent task force speakers called on Superintendent Beutner to remove roadblocks to a charter common enrollment system, particularly material revisions to charters. This likely comes in response to **LA RA's** research and guidance to **GPSN** indicating that several of the participating CMOs and schools participating could need charter amendments.
 - On Thursday, **Nick Melvoin** indicated a desire to push for a fully unified enrollment through a resolution in the fall. He indicated flexibility as to timeline and an understanding that the program would have to be overseen by a third party. Next week, we plan to check in with GPSN on next steps around the current pilot proposal and ask initial questions on a potential resolution. We will work to prepare the **LAAC** for a potential resolution coming this fall.
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3. Board District 5
 - We are working to shore up facts and next steps should Ref step down.

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- **CONFIDENTIAL:** We learned last week from Jed's conversation with Ref that **Ref Rodriguez's** resignation from the Board is likely within the next month, and we have begun internal preparations for what will happen with the seat once he steps down.
 - This week, we spoke with CCSA Advocates staff to better understand our contingency plans. **Gary Borden** indicated that an appointment would be preferable, especially if we could find an established civic leader to serve as a caretaker appointee who would not run for the seat. While staff indicated that there are several people interested in running for the seat, we have a dearth of those interested in an appointment who essentially would not run.
 - This is complicated by a rule that an appointee can be terminated *within 30 days of an appointment* with the submission of *approximately 4500* signatures calling for a new board member. We are in the process of checking our understanding on the rules and procedures governing the appointment/special election scenarios and discussing the viability of each pathway. Next week, we will begin actively sourcing appointable candidates by reaching out to BD5 school leaders, LAAC members, influential school leaders, and external partners.
4. Miscellaneous
- We want to coordinate a call with **you two** and **Carlos Marquez** to provide feedback on the legislative agenda, which is very much grounded in LA Priorities. Then we suggest inviting Carlos to our summer LAAC step-back, as much of the state legislative agenda references or is grounded in local policy change at LAUSD on issues like renewal criteria. We will fold that into our summer strategic planning.
 - **Cassy has a phone call scheduled with the group of charter leaders hiring for a new position on Wednesday 7/11.** She also had an extended conversation with both **Marcia and Ana** about the rationale and plans for this position. **Cassy wants to coordinate with E & C about this on Monday 7/9 when she gets back.**